

DEERS FROM LIFE'S STAGE, BEING TEN ORIGINAL STORIES, WRITTEN FOR THE DISPATCH BY SIR GILBERT E. CAMPBELL, BART., author of "Detective Stories From Real Life," "The Avenge Hand," "The Mystery of Mandeville Square," etc.

IN THE DEER PARK.

Apart from the magnificent chase which surrounded the fine old Tudor mansion of Greystoke, there was an inner division, scarcely paler of which strong oak rails, which many smaller landholders would have looked on as a comfortable little estate, so many acres did it contain of hill and dale, meadow and woodland. This interior inclosure was known as the Deer Park, and had been raised off at a great expense to prevent the red deer, which at certain seasons are especially dangerous, which the park itself was intersected. Greystoke was a wonderful old place, and suff King Hal, the Virgin Queen, and the Scotch potent who succeeded to her throne had often taken their pleasure in the vast demesne, and followed the deer with hounds and horns.

The masters of Greystoke had always been a wild and reckless set of men, caring for little but the indulgence of their own passions and vices. There had, however, always been a certain method in their recklessness; they had never exceeded their property, and had never interfered in royal quarrels, and by these means had kept their broad acres intact. Griffith Greystoke, the present possessor of the wide domain, had followed in the footsteps of his ancestors. As a lad he had been an adept at all sports of the field, and when a mere boy he had climbed to the summit of the highest mountain, known as Wizard's Keep, and swam in the fathomless pool in the Deer Park, said to be the abode of a water Kelpie, and which was the deer pool in the inclosure where the red deer could quench their thirst.

When old enough he had joined one of the regiments of the Household Cavalry, and for a brief space he had known the career of distinction, but his untamable spirit would not submit to the trammels of discipline, and after a short military career, he had returned to his home, and had taken to his gun and rifle for a term of Greystoke.

Thus his devotion to field sports won for him the golden opinions of the country gentry, but after a time he grew weary of the excitement and risk of the hunt, and he turned his attention to the study of the law, and he had not long since become a barrister at law, and he had not long since become a barrister at law, and he had not long since become a barrister at law.

Next morning there was considerable excitement at Greystoke, for his mistress had disappeared, and left no signs behind her by which she could be traced. It was ascertained that she had not been spirited away by any of the numerous ghosts which were the credit of Greystoke, and she had not been spirited away by any of the numerous ghosts which were the credit of Greystoke.

Griffith Greystoke had brought home a wife with him. Not a Mexican senorita; not the daughter of some Indian rajah; not one of those impossible gold-miner's daughters, all beauty and refinement, who had their course surrounded, evoted out of the inner consciousness of American writers and their imitators, but a fair, handsome Englishwoman, married three years, and whose husband, the widow of a West Indian sugar planter.

How such a marriage could ever have come about was a matter of no account. A law was offered, and the only person capable of doing so, Gideon Cartwright (Griffith's foster-brother), maintained a discreet silence. Besides a wife, Greystoke, of Greystoke, brought other followers back with him. An aged, white-headed negro, an old and confidential servant of his wife; a young Senegalese Indian, whom he had picked up in Florida; a Zulu, and a Chinaman, who had acted as a valet and general factotum in camp. All these different nationalities found accommodations within the old walls of Greystoke, and matters would have gone smoothly enough had it not been for Mrs. Greystoke's temper, which was as fiery as her husband's.

One afternoon, after a more serious jangle than usual with Mr. Greystoke, who had objected to the archery club holding its usual meeting at Greystoke, Griffith retired to his usual sanctum, the armory as it was termed, from a collection of weapons of all countries which adorned its walls, and lighting a cigar, rang the bell furiously. After an interval of some five minutes the door was slowly opened, and the gray head of Manuel, Mr. Greystoke's confidential servant, appeared.

"Master wait!" asked he. "What should I want you for, you black-faced imp of Satan?" demanded Griffith, whose temper had been sorely tried. "Are there no other servants but you?" The man made no reply, but still lingered in the doorway, and Griffith, who had been there a cut on his forehead covered with a piece of douchon plaster.

"Heavily, but what has that to do with the beast?" "Do you not remember," pursued his foster-brother, "the herds of deer and other animals wandering about in search of water?" "Of course, of course," answered Griffith, "but I ask again—"

"I heard what you said to the deer park," answered Manuel, "and I thought I might frighten my mistress into returning to the old, British land, for I hate this cold country. I told her that you had offered £1,000 to buy her, and that she had gone too far, and got alarmed, and agreed to stay. That night we stole out of the house, and got into the deer park intending to make our way to Dufford and procure a conveyance there, but when we got as far as the pool she said she would not sacrifice the position she had gained. I remonstrated with her, but she burst out into one of her storms of passion, and struck me over the face in the old wood. I got mad then, and stabbed her. When I saw her stretched bleeding at my feet I grew frightened, but after a time I collected myself, and trying an old stone which lay by the side of the water round her waist, I threw her in. Then I took the bag and reaching the old tower unobserved I hid it, intending to carry it away at some other time, but the shutting up of the place upset my plans. But you will let me go now that I have confessed all, will you not?"

"I have confessed all, will you not?" "I have confessed all, will you not?" "I have confessed all, will you not?" "I have confessed all, will you not?" "I have confessed all, will you not?"

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